

Kentucky Youth Tobacco Survey (KYTS) 2010 High School Fact Sheet

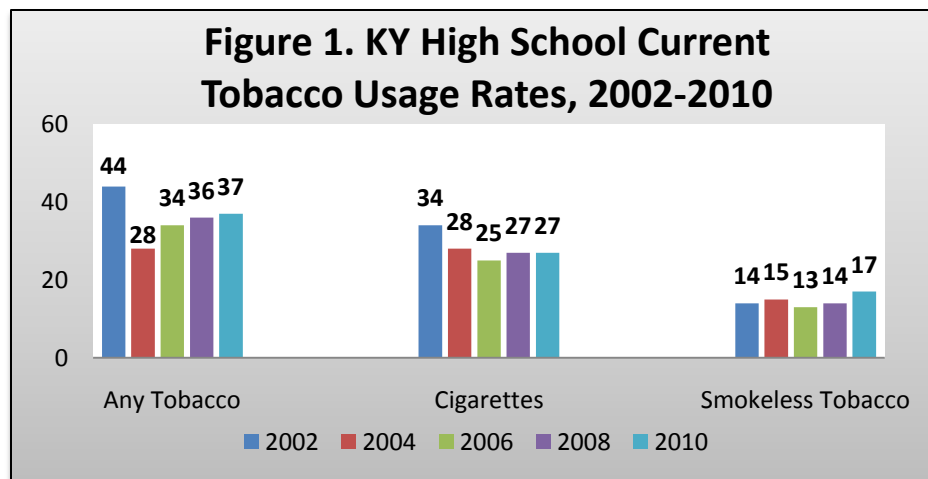
In the spring of 2010, the Kentucky Department for Public Health, Tobacco Control and Prevention Program, conducted a statewide survey with more than 5,000 middle and high school students. The Kentucky Youth Tobacco Survey (KYTS) asked students about their attitudes and beliefs regarding tobacco use, and about their own tobacco use.

Following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, statistical methods were used by which a representative sample of Kentucky youth was surveyed. As participants were randomly selected, findings can be generalized.

Tobacco Use Prevalence

Figure 1 illustrates tobacco usage rates among Kentucky high school students. Since 2000, current smoking among high school students in Kentucky has decreased by nearly 30%. While significant progress in decreasing tobacco usage rates has occurred since 2000, the slightly increasing trends from 2010, as depicted below, demonstrate the need for continued commitment to preventing youth initiation.

- **26.6%** of high school students indicated that they smoked cigarettes. In 2008, **27%** of high school students reported smoking cigarettes.



This represents a **1.5%** reduction in smoking.

- **36.7%** of high school students indicated that they used tobacco products. In 2008, **36%** of high school students reported using tobacco products. This shows an increase in usage of tobacco products by **2%**.
- **16.8%** of high school students indicated that they used smokeless tobacco products. In 2008, **14%** of high school students reported smokeless tobacco use. This represents an increase in usage of smokeless tobacco products by **20%**.
- **15.5%** of high school students indicated that they smoked cigars. In 2008, **15%** of high school students reported smoking cigars. This represents a **3%** increase in cigar smoking.

Secondhand Smoke

- **56%** of high school non-smokers, and **88.3%** of smokers, reported being exposed to secondhand smoke in a room in the seven days preceding the survey.

- **36%** of high school non-smokers, and **83.4%** of smokers, reported riding in a car with someone smoking cigarettes in the seven days preceding the survey.

Smoking Cessation

Among high school tobacco users, desire to quit smoking and attempts to quit smoking decreased slightly from 2008 to 2010.

- Nearly one-half (**46.1%**) of Kentucky's high school students who use tobacco would like to quit smoking, which represents no change from 2008.
- Over one-half (**57.1%**) of Kentucky's high school students who use tobacco have attempted to quit smoking within the past 12 months, which is slightly lower than 2008 (**59%**).
- Nearly one-half (**48%**) of high school respondents were taught at school this year the dangers of tobacco use.

Access and Purchase of Cigarettes

Most high school students get their cigarettes from another person rather than buying them directly from a store or other vendor.

- Among high school students, the most common way to get cigarettes is to give money to someone else to buy them (**27.5%**), followed closely by borrowing from someone else (**26.7%**).
- Over one-half (**55.3%**) of current high school smokers under age 18 bought their last pack of cigarettes in a gas station within 30 days preceding the survey.
- Nearly three-fourths (**69.1%**) of current high school smokers under age 18 who bought their cigarettes in a store were not asked to show proof of age.
- Seven out of ten (**70.3%**) of current high school smokers under age 18 who bought cigarettes in a store were not refused cigarettes because of their age.

Sampling Methods

The survey sample is a 2-stage cluster design. In the first stage, schools are selected randomly within the grade range specified with a probability proportional to enrollment size. At the second stage, classes are randomly selected from within the selected schools and all the students within a selected class are surveyed. The survey was conducted between April and May 2010. Eighty-five high schools participated. A sample of 4,311 students was selected to participate according to CDC's guidelines and, of these, 3,592 completed usable questionnaires.

Questions concerning this project or additional data request may be addressed to:

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